

**APR 25 2006**

Attorney Docket No.: NIDSNZ00101

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450" [37 CFR 1.8(a)] on the date shown below.

Date: April 25, 2006

Signature: 

(Laura Shires)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 10/669,204  
Confirmation No.: 2631  
Filing Date: September 23, 2003  
Inventor(s): Russell A. HOUSER et al.  
Title: APPARATUS AND METHODS FOR TREATING TISSUE  
Examiner: A. Farah  
Group Art Unit: 3735

**RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patent  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the non-final Office Action dated November 22, 2005 for which a response was due on February 22, 2006. Filed herewith is a Petition and fee for a three-month extension of time, thereby extending the deadline for response to May 22, 2006. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the Remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 5 of this paper.